(a) the transmission capacity of Akashwani Kendra of Ajmer, Rajasthan;

(b) the amount disbursed for the development of this station during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons for keeping this kendra just as a relay station;

(d) whether all infrastructural facilities and equipments required for the broadcasting of Vividh Bharti and other programmes are available there; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made a regular Akashwani Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) AIR, Ajmer is equipped with 200 KW MW Transmitter, which works as a relay centre for Jaipur channel 'A' to provide radio coverage to far flung areas of Rajasthan. As there is no approved scheme for development of AIR, Ajmer. No amount has been disbursed for development of the station. However, for operation and maintenance, amounts of Rs. 61.21, Rs. 64.32 and Rs. 84.15 lakhs were disbursed during the year 94-95, 95-96 and 96-97 respectively.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no approved scheme to relay Vividh Bharti Programme or to set up programme production centre at Ajmer.

[English]

Centralisation of Stores Purchasing

5172. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to centralise the stores purchasing of the Railways in respect of common user items between several Zonal Railway at common places to avoid duplicity and avail economies of scale; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, for a large number of common user items, Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals finalises the Rate Contracts centrally, which are used by Railways to get these items. Only very high value items like Locos, Wagons, Coaches, Steel, POL Products etc. and vital and safety items, where capacity and sources in the country are limited, are procured centrally to avail economies of scale and avoid different Railways chasing a few suppliers. Centralised procurement of other items is not proposed to be done as it may prove detrimental to the interest of Small Scale Industries and other Regional Industries and may also not be economical.

Doordarshan Relay Centre, Kerala

5173. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Doordarshan Relay Centre has been set up at Kallisserry, Chengannur and Alleppey in Kerala;

(b) whether the same has not been functioning due to lack of enough staff;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The existing LPT at Chengannur in Alleppey District is located at Kallissery, in Kerala. The LPT at Chengannur is already functioning but providing only limited transmission i.e. evening transmission on week days and full transmission on Sundays, as only 50% of the staff required has been sanctioned for the project. Full time transmission from this LPT Centre would be started once sanction for full complement of staff is received.

There is no TV transmitter at present at Alleppey which lies in the coverage range of High Power TV Transmitter functioning of Cochin.

Out of Turn Allotments

5174. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of turn allotment of STD/ISD telephone connections and Government quarters have been made between January 1, 1990 and June 30, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date;

(c) whether such out of turn allotment have also been made from July 1, 1996 to date;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the norms laid down by the Government for these out of turn allotments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): ISD/STD Telephone Connections: (a) to (d) No, Sir. Only ordinary telephones i.e. telephones without STD/ISD facilities are sanctioned on out of turn basis. STD/ISD facilities are provided to the users of telephone connections at their option.

(e) Does not arise.

Government Quarters

(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

5157. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for gauge conversion of Lalkuan-Bareilly and

Bareilly-Pilibhit-Mailani line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above conversion work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

Vecuum Cleanere and VAX Computers in D.S.P.

5176. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Durgapur Steel Plant purchased vacuum cleaner cost about Rs. 2 crores and vax computer cost about Rs. 30 crores which are not functioning by the side of the Sinter Plant after modernisation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the technical audit has been done; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) had purchased a Vacuum Cleaners for approximately Rs. 85,000/- and a VAX computer for approximately Rs. 36 lakhs under the New Sinter Plant package of D.S.P. Modernisation.

The vacuum cleaners are functioning satisfactorily.

The VAX computer hardware has been installed and is functional. The software is being developed indigenously and is in advance stage of completion.

Vacuum Cleaners and VAX Computer being part of the New Sinter Plant package, technical audit would be taken up alongwith the audit of New Sinter Plant package.

[Translation]

Construction of Pedestrian Subway

5177. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of pedestrain subway near Ramghat road railway crossing in Aligarh District has started for which prior sanction has already been accorded;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in order to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. No work of Pedestrain Subway has been approved at this site. However, a Road Over Bridge will be taken up after the State Govt. acquires land for approaches and starts work thereon.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of position given above.

[English]

Outstanding Dues against Railways

5178. SHRI RAM NAIK:

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding dues from the Railway Administration as on March 31, 1997 on account of expenditure incurred on Railway Police by the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) the reasons for non-payment so far; and

(c) the time bound programme for the full repayment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The total outstanding with the Railway Administration as on March 31, 1997 on account of expenditure incurred on Railway Police by the Government of Maharashtra is Rs. 15.66 crores. This includes bills for Rs. 4.93 crores received in March '97.

(b) The outstanding dues are mainly on account of:-

(i) Non-submission of audit certificate by the State Govt.

(ii) Non-availability of funds.

(iii) Unilateral creation of GRP posts by the State Govt. without approval of Railway administration.

(c) Railways have already been instructed to liquidate all clearly admissible claims of Maharashtra Govt. subject to availability of funds.

[Translation]

Stoppages of Trains

5179. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received memoranda about providing stoppages of Mahamaya Express at Vidisha Railway Station, Shipra Express Train and Jhelum Express Train at Ganj Basoda and Pathankot Express Train at Gulabganj Railway Stations;